ORIGIN/ACTION

EA-8

M/R	REP	AF
1		
RA	EUR 5	FE
NEA	CU	INR 6
E	P	IO
L	FBO	AID 15
	VTC 1	PM 2
GR	COM	FRB
NT	LAB 6	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
RMY 3	CIA 16	NAVY 5
SD 4	USIA 10	NSA 3
		NSC 6

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AIRGRAM

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INFO : DANANG, USDEL FRANCE, CINCPAC FOR POLAD

Action Taken noted

Date of Action 28 Jn RA

Action Officer

Name of Officer JM

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: June 18, 1971

SUBJECT : Buu and the Presidency

REF :

1. The Vietnamese language press on June 14 quoted Tran Quoc Buu, President of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (CVT) and of the Cong Nong Party, as saying he would not be a candidate either for the presidency or vice presidency.

2. Instead, according to the daily Than Phong, Buu "expressed his personal support for candidate Nguyen Van Thieu."

3. Asked about these press reports, Buu said that he did indeed tell journalists that he would not be a candidate for office. The question about his vice presidential aspirations dealt specifically with whether he would consider being a running mate with President Thieu.

4. The press misquoted him, however, in saying that he expressed his support for Thieu's candidacy, Buu claimed. Neither he nor the party is ready to make any public statement on this point, he added.

5. Buu's claim that he was misquoted is probably literally true. However, a Vietnamese who was present during the interview says that the reporters' inference was an understandable one, given the context of favorable comments by Buu about Thieu.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Joan Izzard DATE 1/26/82

RDS or XD EXT. DATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 1971 JUN 25 PM 2 22

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